

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TW

SUBJECT: CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY INTERVIEW WITH JOHN

GEYERMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR DESIGNATE OF

TRADE CENTER

REF: STATE 159827; TAIPEI 4940; TAIPEI 5321

1. COMMERCE REGRETS EXTENSIVE MISINFORMATION INCLUDED  
IN CHINA POST STORY AS REPORTED REFTEL.

2. MANY POINTS MISCONSTRUED ON BASIS INFORMAL MEETING  
IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN GEYERMAN AND ROCK LENG OF CHINA  
NEWS AGENCY.

3. WITH REGARD REFERENCE TO MOVE OF COMMERCIAL SECTION  
TO TRADE CENTER, GEYERMAN DID NOT INDICATE DECISION MADE  
TO MOVE SECTION TO CENTER. INSTEAD HE SAID DECISION  
STILL PENDING.

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4. GEYERMAN DID NOT MENTION SCHOLARS WITH REFERENCE TO SEMINARS THAT MAY BE HELD AT TRADE CENTER. NEITHER DID HE STRESS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TRADE CENTER IN JAPAN AND THE ONE PLANNED IN TAIPEI. INSTEAD, GEYERMAN MERELY STATED FEWER MAJOR EXHIBITIONS WOULD BE SCHEDULED AT THE TAIPEI FACILITY THAN AT THE ONE IN JAPAN, DUE TO THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE MARKETS, BUT THAT A RELATIVELY GREATER NUMBER OF SEMINARS MIGHT BE HELD IN TAIPEI.

5. GEYERMAN DID NOT SAY AS QUOTED "WILL ONLY BE CONCERNED WITH YOUR EXPORTS TO US IF THE TRADE BALANCE LEANS HEAVILY ON OUR SIDE." HE STRESSED THAT THE ROLE OF THE TC IN TAIPEI WILL BE TO PROMOTE THE SALE OF U.S. PRODUCTS TO HELP RIGHT THE CURRENT IMBALANCE OF TRADE; THAT THE PROMOTION OF ROC PRODUCTS IN THE U.S. MARKET IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ROC OFFICIALS.

6. GEYERMAN POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE CENTERS IN BANGKOK AND SYDNEY. SINGAPORE CAME UP IN THE CONVERSATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE BANGKOK TRADE CENTER HAVING BEEN RELOCATED TO SINGAPORE TO FACILITATE ITS ROLE AS A REGIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT CENTER. GEYERMAN DID NOT SAY TAIPEI WOULD BE HIS FOURTH TRADE CENTER.

7. NEITHER DID GEYERMAN SAY THAT EVENTUALLY THE TRADE CENTER IN TAIPEI WOULD BE EXPANDED INTO A REGIONAL CENTER TO COVER TRADE PROMOTION IN HONG KONG, THE PHILIPPINES AND KOREA. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY SINGAPORE HAS FAR EASTERN REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

8. THE REFERENCE TO GEYERMAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE KOREA TRADE CENTER CAME UP ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH HIS POSSIBLE ROLE IN ASSISTING AMEMBASSY SEOUL IN THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE PROPOSED TRADE CENTER THERE. IT WILL NOT BE OPENED UNDER HIS SUPERVISION.

9. IN ANSWER TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION, GEYERMAN ADVISED THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS. HE INDICATED THAT THE DIRECTOR WOULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS. HE MADE NO FURTHER SPECULATION WITH REGARD TO THE STAFF AND HE DID NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDICATE THAT THE REST WOULD NECESSARILY BE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION, HE INDICATED THAT THE TYPICAL TRADE CENTER CALLS FOR A STAFF OF FROM 6 TO 7, INCLUDING LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

10. AS REPORTER MADE NO NOTES DURING DISCUSSION, GEYERMAN FEELS THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM THIS FACT AND FROM SOME LIMITATION IN REPORTER'S COMPREHENSION

OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE. RUSH

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**TAGS:** BEXP, TW  
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